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centrated on the Confederate left and fought the 10th and 28th. So it was a battle royal by seasoned troops of approximately equal numbers.

What turned the tide of battle was the neglect of the Confederate General to fortify his position and protect his flank. Averell, an officer of superior ability, took advantage of the situation and turned the flank of the enemy with his infantry and gave them such a slight margin for their escape which caused much confusion.

All that saved the Confederates from being cut off was the lake that protected their left flank. If Generals Jackson and Echols had fortified the back road over which the flanking units marched, and protected their lines by falling timber and temporary breast works on the mountain side, which they had abundant time to do, their position would have been impregnable. The mere height of a mountain is of but slight advantage to those defending it, if they are not protected by breast works. When the 10th West Va. Infantry succeeded in gaining a position on the left of the Confederate line, the Confederate commander seeing their peril and danger of being cut off, ordered a retreat. The roads being blocked by cavalry, artillery and wagon trains caused much confusion. The Union victory was not the result of lack of numbers on the Confederate side, nor to the gallantry of her soldiers, but a lack on the part of their commanders to comprehend the situation and take advantage of their position.

front,  
on foot, and

June 19, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin  
Marlinton, W. Va.

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Partial reports made by the leading officers who participated in the Battle of Droop Mountain.

General Averell's Report:

On the first day of November, I left Beverly with my command consisting of the 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Col. A. Moor; 10th West Virginia Infantry, Col. T. M. Harris; 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. A. Scott; 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Col. J. H. Oley; 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Col. J. N. Schoonmaker; Gibson's Battalion and Batteries B & G, First West Virginia Light Artillery, Capt. J. V. Keeper and C. T. Ewing.

On the morning of the 6th we approached the enemy's position. The infantry and one corps of cavalry was sent to the right to ascend a range of hills, with orders to attack the enemy's left and rear, the attack of our infantry, 1,175 strong was conducted skillfully by Col. Moor.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th, dismounted, were moved in line obliquely to the right, until their right was joined to Moor's left. Col. Moor says when he arrived in front of the enemy's position, at 1:45 P. M. he formed a line and ordered Col. Harris to move up in double quick, who arrived in the nick of time.

Lieut. Col. Scott's Report.

Lieut. Col. Alex. Scott, 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, says that about 12 o'clock, having moved to the front, "I was ordered to dismount my command and fight on foot, and

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was ordered to take a position between the third and eighth. At this time we found the 3rd, 8th and 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry in line of battle, with Jackson's force. The 2nd, 3rd and 8th West Virginia Infantry, immediately in front of the breast works".

I went into action with two hundred men; out of that number, there were nine killed, fourteen wounded, two mortally wounded, seven severly and five slightly.

Report of Colonel John Oley

Eighth West Virginia Mounted Infantry. After taking my place with column on the morning of the 6th, I was ordered to clear the hills up to the foot of Droop Mountain of Skirmishers, and pickets. About 1P. M. I was notified that the 2nd and 3rd Mounted Infantry would take a position on my right, and was ordered to assault the enemy's works in conjunction with them.

Col. James N. Schoonmaker's Report

Col. James N. Schoonmaker, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry says that "On the morning of the 6th, I was ordered with my regiment and Keeper's Battery, to move to the extreme right of the enemy, who had again taken a position on the almost naturally fortified summit of Droop Mountain, and keep up a fire on their forces that their attention might be drawn from Col. Moor, who was to make an attack on their left. Knowing of the intended assauly of Col. Moor, I immediately got my regiment reformed, and passed with two sections of artillery on the double

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quick from the extreme right to the center."

Report of Major Thos Gibson, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

" On the 1st day of November, I moved with the Brigade and continued with it until the 5th day of November, on which day I marched to Cackleytown, by way of Marlin's Bottom, with the train".

The  
The 10th West Virginia Infantry lost eight killed and twenty-seven wounded.

The 28th Ohio Infantry lost five killed and twenty-one wounded.

CONFEDERATE REPORTS.

Brig. General John Echols.

Gen. Echols says that he placed his forces at the crest of the mountain. The batteries of Chapman and Jackson under the command of Major W. McLaughlin, were placed near where Col. Jackson had placed two pieces of his battery under the command of Capt. Lurty.

Col. G. S. Patton was placed in command of the First Brigade, viz: the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Maj. R. A. Bailey; the 23rd Virginia Battalion, Major Wm. Blessing commanding; then at the right of the turnpike road near the summit, and Maj. Bailey's 22nd Regiment in the rear of the Battery. At this time, Colonel Thompson's 19th Virginia Cavalry was moved to the left with one hundred and seventy-five men and was